

Application No. 10/813,791
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The specification has been amended to avoid referring to the claims by number and to correct some other minor informalities of which the undersigned has become aware. No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the specification be approved and entered.

THE DRAWINGS

The Examiner contends that the drawings do not show lengthwise grooves that extend in a direction roughly parallel to the finger portions.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that grooves 2a shown in Fig. 1(a) and Fig. 2 clearly extend in a direction roughly parallel to the finger sections.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the lengthwise grooves recited in new claim 11 are clearly shown in the drawings, and it is respectfully requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

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THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 have been canceled, without prejudice, and new claims 11-12 have been added.

New claim 11 has been prepared based on the subject matter of (now canceled) claims 1-3 to clarify that the finger portions of the glove body cover an entirety of a gripping side of fingers of the wearer, and to recite the feature of the present invention whereby an area covered by the vibration insulator sections is greater than an area of said crosswise and lengthwise grooves, as supported by the disclosure in Fig. 1(a). In this connection, see Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar, 19 USPQ2d 1111 (CAFC 1991), in which the CAFC held that drawings alone may provide a "written description" of an invention as required by 35 USC 112.

In addition, new claim 12 has been prepared depending from claim 11 based on the subject matter of (now canceled) claim 4.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested new claims 11 and 12 be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-4 and 7-10 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,500,956 ("Schulkin et al"). This rejection, however, is respectfully traversed with respect to new claims 11 and 12 set forth hereinabove.

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According to the present invention as recited in new independent claim 11, a vibration-proof glove is provided for use during operation of a vibration tool. The glove comprises a stretchable knit glove body including a palm portion for covering a palm of a wearer, and finger portions for covering an entirety of a gripping side of fingers of the wearer; vulcanized foam rubber vibration insulator sections provided at least on the palm portion of the globe body; a plurality of crosswise grooves extending between the vibration insulator sections and in a direction roughly orthogonal to a direction in which the finger portions extend; and a plurality of lengthwise grooves extending between the vibration insulator in a direction roughly parallel to the direction in which the finger portions extend. And as recited in new independent claim 11, an area covered by the vibration insulator sections is greater than an area of the crosswise and lengthwise grooves.

Thus, according to the present invention, an entire gripping surface are of the hand, including the fingers, is covered by the glove body to protect the fingers as well as the palm of the wearer.

In addition, according to the present invention the grooves are formed such that the area of the vibration insulator sections is much larger than the area of the grooves. With this structure the large surface area of the vibration insulator sections

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functions to absorb vibrations, while the grooves are formed to allow the hand to easily bend while wearing the glove.

As recognized by the Examiner, Schulkin et al discloses an athletic glove having a plurality of protruding elements 25 formed thereon with valleys 25a between adjacent protruding portions 25.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that the glove of Schulkin et al is "wristless" and substantially "fingerless" and substantially "thumbless" to promote the performance of basketball players (column 3, lines 51-55). In addition, as clearly shown in Fig. 1 of Schulkin et al the protrusions 25 clearly do not occupy more surface area of the glove than the valleys 25a. Indeed, the protrusions 25 of Schulkin et al are purposefully small so as to interact with the indentations in the surface of a basketball.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Schulkin et al clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the features of the present invention as recited in new independent claim 11 whereby the finger portions of the glove body cover an entirety of a gripping side of fingers of the wearer, and whereby an area covered by the vibration insulator sections is greater than an area of the crosswise and lengthwise grooves. In fact, it is respectfully submitted that Schulkin et al teaches away from these features of the claimed present invention.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in new independent claim 11, and claim 12 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Schulkin et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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In view of the foregoing, entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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